



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

May 24, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting called to order, as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: John Cherry, John Cooke, Ed Moore, Cheryl Hill, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Richard Aronson, Helen Bechard, and Mary Burke. Public: Sandy Chaleski.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the April meeting were submitted. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by JCooke. Passed by unanimous vote.

Announcement: Commissioner Richard Aronson has resigned from the Commission for personal reasons. The Chairman and the other Commissioners thanked him for his service and his continued well being.

Correspondence

Mail: To the Chairman from Commissioner RAronson, his letter of resignation.

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony. There were 11 attendees including Our Judge, Jim Scrimgeour, 4 teachers, a parent, and 3 poets plus one pre-recorded poet reading her work. The event went well and a recording will be made available on the Commission website as soon as it is edited.
- Events SPORADIC Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7PP

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
 - First Friday Jazz
 - Danbury Symphony Orchestra Strings in Concert
- Danbury Museums
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - @287 287 Main St. Danbury
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
 - Mothership on Main
- Danbury Library

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK
2021 JUL -11 A 7:57

BY: 

Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com
EVENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESUME DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.

Coordinator's Report

Minutes of the Meeting (APPROVED) Page 1 of 4 Submitted: June 30, 2021
NOTE: Additional and supporting information can be found in the files at the Commission office.



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1. The Commission awarded 3 grants this year
 - i. Danbury Music Centre \$10,000.00
 - ii. Richter Association for the Arts \$3,100.00
 - iii. Musicals At Richter \$8,500.00
2. Make Music Day
 - a. Posters have been distributed by John Fazio Jr. In order to have a performance schedule for the day there still must be pairing of performers to venues. In addition to the Music Centre there are 2 Venues and 9 Performers.
 - b. The Coordinator will be in Danbury all day for the Make Music Day project to record events and assist as needed. Overall hours are 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.
3. Poetry contest winners
 - a. Awards presentation was recorded. It needs to be edited and then will be posted.
 - b. Past years for which there are saved poems:
 - i. 1975, 1984 - 1985, 1987, 1988 - 1989, 1990 - 1996, 1977, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2008, 2011 through 2021
4. Scholarships
 - a. Danbury High we are waiting for the names
 - b. Winner at Abbott Tech is Anaëli River. The Awards day is June 11

Appeals from Community groups:

None

Old Business

1. JCooke noted that the Garden Club has been notified about Go Public Gardens Days May 6-15, 2022.
2. University Intern project - Report from Jonathan Wencek
A final preview is prepared. Commissioners are asked to make any comments and suggestions prior to launch June 1, 2021. The Judge's biographies and a site explanation still need to be added.
3. Make Music Day
 - a. (See the Coordinator's report).
4. Poetry Awards
 - a. (See the Coordinator's report)

Action on Grant Requests:

None.

New Business

Allocation of remaining fund balance

1. GSmith asks consideration of using the majority of the \$25,000 budget balance and establishing an apprenticeship in cultural/civic affairs for Danbury residents through any one of the seven Fairfield County universities. Applicants would need to have their university approval and we



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would be the judges as to who would be the winner and the winner would be assigned to a task benefiting the City of Danbury.

2. Chairman HCenter asked for consideration to allocate additional funds to those groups which had their application request reduced at their appearance. His suggestion is for The Danbury Music Centre \$5,000, for Richter Association for the Arts \$5,000, and Musicals at Richter \$1,000. An additional allocation of \$5,000 should be made to hire a consultant to increase awareness of the Cultural Commission by younger audiences. That person would also develop contacts within the community to encourage younger artists to participate in programs and start new programs which would increase exposure and participation of a younger demographic.

MOTION: Chairman HCenter's request was moved by GSmith and seconded by CHill.

DISCUSSION: This person should be available July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Suggested that the current intern, who has already done a lot of work in this arena be asked to consider the position. JCooke notes this proposal would increase cooperation between the City and Western Connecticut State University. The Commissioners ask the Chairman to make the personnel selection.

CALLED: Allocation of fund balance passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business

1. GSmith asks for an update on the closet issue
 - a. The Coordinator reports that this is not the time to make waves. The Cultural Commission is the City agency occupying the building and the Music Centre has a lease which clearly defines the space they have access to.
2. JCooke suggests Commissioners get a look at the art exhibit at Mothership on Main. Opening night of "Emergence": A Fine Art Show. Artist Jessica Ventura will be on hand to celebrate a collection of oils and watercolor. The event is May 27 between 4:40 to 8:40 P.M.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30

Made by CHill. Passed by Unanimous vote.

NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to Join Zoom Meeting



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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093171892?pwd=S0o2TjB2R0pkNkVxMXdaRG9hM2lGZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 9317 1892 Passcode: 707957

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The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Upcoming events CURTAILED Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B

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